

7/1/02
PATENT
1718-0194P
#5/B

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: ZHOU, Xiao-Xiong et al. Conf.:
Appl. No.: NEW Group: Unknown
Filed: November 16, 2001 Examiner: Unknown
For: PRODRUGS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

November 16, 2001

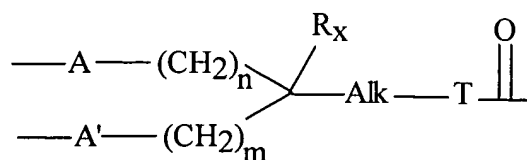
Sir:

The following preliminary amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Useful trifunctional L₁ group, especially for esterifying directly to the nucleoside include linkers of the formula IIa or IIb:



IIa